

## BRIEFS

### KY ELECTS FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT

ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky. (BP) — Messengers to the 178th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention elected Kevin Smith, teaching pastor of Highview Church in Louisville, as the first African American president of the convention. The Kentucky Baptist Convention is ready for the first African American president. Smith is a Cooperative Program champion and has proven that he is a quality, committed leader," said Lincoln Bingham, senior pastor of St. Paul Church at Shively Heights in Louisville, and the messenger who nominated him.

### BOARD OFFERING LMCO RESOURCES

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The International Mission Board is making sermon resources from agency president David Platt available free of charge to help promote the 2015 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions (LMCO). A full video sermon titled, *Why We Pray, Why We Give, Why We Go*, can be shown in 33-and-a-half minutes or in segments. The accompanying sermon outline can be used to speak about why every Christian is called to help fulfill the Great Commission. To view or download the sermon resources, visit [imb.org/plattsermonhelps](http://imb.org/plattsermonhelps).

### ONE MILLION MOMS CALLS FOR BOYCOTT

NASHVILLE (BP) — The One Million Moms organization is calling for a boycott of American Girl products and its parent company Mattel after American Girl magazine featured a story about an 11-year-old girl and her two adoptive dads. "American Girl is attempting to desensitize our youth by featuring a family with two dads. If your child has not seen this yet, then be careful she is not exposed and can avoid a premature conversation she is far too young to understand." One Million Moms said in its press release urging the boycott.

## High court to hear GuideStone appeal

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The U.S. Supreme Court agreed Nov. 6 to hear appeals by several ministries to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate that would require certain ministries to provide potentially abortion-causing drugs and devices or face crippling penalties.

The court's decision to hear the appeal, of which GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention is a part, means the ministries will continue to be protected from sanctions until at least June 2016 when a final ruling is expected on the Obamacare requirement.

The court's decision to hear the case was expected by legal observers after the St. Louis-based Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in September in favor of a group of ministries seeking relief from the mandate. The Eighth Circuit's decision broke with decisions by most other circuit courts, including a three-judge panel of

the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. The 10th Circuit ruled against GuideStone in its case.

GuideStone, headquartered in Dallas, and its co-plaintiffs, Baptist-affiliated Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga., and independent missionary-sending

see GUIDESTONE on p. 11

## Pray for people of Paris



**REMEMBERING VICTIMS** — Flowers, candles, and notes fill the streets of Paris at the multiple sites of the worst attack perpetrated on France since World War II, as people around the world begin to mourn the loss of those killed by Muslim extremists. The final casualty figures have not been released, but it is clear that hundreds of people were killed or wounded. (BP photo courtesy of IMB)

## IMB personnel unhurt, on scene of Paris attacks

PARIS (BP and local reports) — Friday the 13th became a day of infamy in Paris after a series of coordinated terrorist attacks in Paris left at least 129 people dead and 350 wounded.

"This has been the worst attack in Paris since World War II," said Tara Chaney (not her real name), an International Mission Board (IMB) worker in France. "People are in a state of shock and mourning. However, there is also a sense of resolve. Parisians are slowly going about their lives. They want to prove to the terrorists that they have not won."

IMB officials reported all of their personnel in Paris are safe, although four were at the national stadium that was one of six locations targeted by terrorists. The self-proclaimed Islamic State claimed responsibility, yet many Muslims around the world took to social media to condemn the attacks, citing a difference between Islam and extremist dogma.

Mark Edworthy, IMB's top strategist for Europe, said, "Some rush immediately to political or even ideological reasons behind the acts, but our workers understand the spiritual dimension of darkness in the world and the reality that violence can erupt anywhere and any time."

Edworthy added that some would think the immediate response is that Paris needs to monitor more closely the whereabouts of known terrorists or some other "empty solution" to a very complicated problem, "but our workers have

see PARIS on p. 9

### » HOW TO PRAY

"Please pray for the people of Paris, France, and Europe in the coming days," said Wendy Meador, IMB's prayer strategist for Europe. "Ask for healing for those injured and comfort for those who have lost loved ones. Intercede for wisdom for those in authority as well as for citizens, as they react and respond to this situation."

"Petition our loving Father to fill grieving, questioning hearts with peace that only He can give. Pray for field workers as well as local believers as they reach out to the hurting and pray that many will place their faith in Him, as they seek hope after this crisis."

For prayer resources for France, go to [imb.org/france](http://imb.org/france).

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Our rock-solid schools

The country's most liberal universities lately seem to have run off the rails, haven't they? For those of us old enough now to be young enough then, the 1960s rush back to mind as we watch today's pampered students who can afford tuition as high as \$62,000 per school year demand "safe spaces" and other protections from the cruel inequities of campus life.

Even the stale socialist pronouncements, barely understood if at all by the New Radicals, remind us of their equally misinformed (miseducated?) counterparts of the 1960s. The New Radicals' deep resentment of differing opinions and seething hatred for the very constitutional rights that protect their infantile behavior closely track their forefears.

While we await the long-term results of this misguided movement on the social and spiritual well-being of some of the most prestigious institutions of higher learning in America, our Mississippi Baptist schools are looking better and better, aren't they? Simply put, Mississippi Baptists' three universities and their administrators and faculty make up the strongest team of Christian education leaders to be found anywhere in the Southern Baptist Convention.

William Carey University (WCU) President Tommy King is a longtime fixture in Mississippi Baptist and Southern Baptist life, serving on the WCU faculty and in the Hattiesburg-based school's administration for more than 20 years. He also pastored a church for many of those years and maintained a private counseling practice where he helped

people understand how to apply Christian principles to life's biggest problems and challenges.

At Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton, President Lee Royce has faced down large groups of protesters from homosexual rights groups that targeted the school and demanded access to students so they could spread their perverse message. "We will not allow our campus to be 'taken over' even for a day by those using bullying tactics to promote their agenda," Royce said at the time.



At Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, President Barbara Childers McMillin continues the legacy of former president Bettye Rogers Coward as the only woman president of a major institution of higher learning in the Southern Baptist Convention. Under their leadership, the formerly all-female

school has transitioned smoothly into a coeducational institution, begun a graduate degree program, and opened a whole new era of

Christian higher education for the people of northeast Mississippi and beyond.

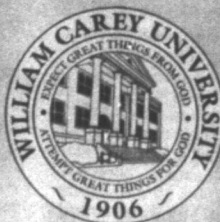
Ask any member of this trio, and they'll humbly tell you God has blessed their institutions with the finest Christian faculty and administrators who have often sacrificed academic prestige and higher salaries else-

where to make Mississippi Baptists' institutions of higher learning what they are today.

Remember them in your prayers, and rejoice in what they have accomplished in the Name of the Lord. They've earned our support. We know we can entrust them with the proper education of our precious sons and daughters.



Mississippi College  
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



## The Shibboleth test

Words such as Gospel, Great Commission, evangelism, and mission are popular these days. Influential blogs, books, and conferences alike utilize these terms and their cognates (e.g., Gospel-centered, missional, etc.) in their titles and themes.

With as much excitement and encouragement as this trend brings, believers must guard against the temptation of talking about the Gospel to those who know it best without taking the Gospel to those who need to hear it most.

Whatever meaning believers ascribe to being "Gospel-centered" should incorporate an understanding that our conversations with unbelievers should center on the Gospel as much as, if not more than, our conversations with believers. To ensure we do so, believers should employ a standard measure by which we test ourselves — a Gospel Shibboleth, so to speak.

The concept of a Shibboleth is derived from Judges 12:1-6, which recounts how men from the tribe of Ephraim stridently confronted Jephthah over his defeat of the Ammonites. A fight ensued between the men of Ephraim and the Gileadites who were led by Jephthah. Jephthah and his army prevailed, positioning themselves at the fords of the Jordan River that led to Ephraim.

Fugitives of the defeated tribe of Ephraim came to the fords in order to return home. The Gileadites asked, "Are you from Ephraim?" If they replied, "No," the Gileadites instructed them to say "Shibboleth," testing whether or not they were fugitives. Because they could not pronounce the word correctly, the men from Ephraim failed the test and were executed.

The intentional and consistent practice of personal evangelism serves as the Shibboleth by which we should evaluate our Gospel verbiage. The true test of our Gospel-centeredness isn't that we merely talk about the Gospel among sympathetic groups of believers. Rather, it encompasses our telling the Gospel to apathetic, even skeptical, unbelieving audiences.

Whereas the men of Ephraim had trouble with pronunciation, our trouble tends to lie with proclamation (or, rather, the lack thereof).

The Gospel enterprise is not hindered by our inability to pronounce words like Gospel, evangelism, and Great Commission. We can and do articulate them quite well. However, the work of the Gospel will be hindered if we fail to proclaim intentionally and consistently the Word of the Cross to



Guest opinion  
with Matt Queen

those who have yet to receive its message.

The men of Ephraim were victimized when they failed the Gileadites' test. In contrast, those of us who fail the test of the Gospel Shibboleth at one time or another will not become victims. Instead, the victims of our failure to evangelize are the souls of unbelieving men, women, boys and girls on a trajectory toward hell.

For this reason, we must evaluate whether we spend most of our time talking about the Gospel with believers or telling the Gospel to unbelievers. Utilizing evangelism as a believer's Gospel Shibboleth isn't a new concept. It is simply a new way of saying it.

On August 22, 1903, Henry Crocker published a poem in a Chicago Baptist newspaper [The Standard 50, no. 51 (August 22, 1903): 13. Available at <https://goo.gl/uF4SrY>]. In it, he conveyed through the term "watchword" the same idea as a Gospel Shibboleth. His challenge to his readers in the 20th century rings true for believers in the 21st century:

Evangelize!

Give us a watchword for the hour,  
A thrilling word, a word of power;  
A battle-cry, a flaming breath,  
That calls to conquest or to death.  
A word to rouse the church from rest,  
To heed her Master's high behest;  
The call is given: Ye hosts arise,  
Our watchword is *Evangelize!*  
The glad evangel now proclaim,  
Through all the earth, in Jesus' name;  
This word is ringing through the skies,  
*Evangelize! Evangelize!*  
To dying men, a fallen race,  
Make known the gift of Gospel grace;  
The world that now in darkness lies,  
*Evangelize! Evangelize!*

Queen is associate professor of evangelism and associate dean for doctoral programs at Southwestern Seminary's Roy Fish School of Evangelism & Missions. He holds the school's L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism. Edited for style and clarity.

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### BAPTISTS

VOLUME 139 • NUMBER 46 • ISSN-0005-5778  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.



# Leaders: Religious freedom key to refugee crises

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Religious freedom and the protection of religious minorities are essential to resolving the escalating refugee crisis in Syria and other countries, human rights advocates said at a forum in the nation's capital.

Antonio Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and former prime minister of Portugal, and Robert George, chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and a professor at Princeton University in Princeton, N.J., addressed the worst refugee disaster since World War II during an Oct. 27 event sponsored by USCIRF.



GEORGE

Nearly 60 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced from their homes at the close of 2014, according to UNHCR. Syria leads the way with more than 7.6 million people uprooted within the Middle Eastern country and more than four million registered refugees in other countries.

The involvement of religious issues in the refugee crisis in Syria and elsewhere is striking, George told the audience. The repressive role of a religious group against other religious adherents in such disasters can be seen not only in Syria but in Burma, the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Nigeria, and Pakistan, he said.

Humanitarian aid is needed immediately but the other required response should be, "stand for religious freedom whenever and wherever it is under threat and assault," George said.

Respect for human rights, including religious liberty, is im-

portant for humanitarian reasons but also as part of the attempt to "push back against the instability and conflict" behind the refugee crisis, George said. "By standing for religious freedom, we are saying the following: The best way to solve the refugee crisis is to alleviate conditions that create refugees in the first place, the instability, the internal strife ..."

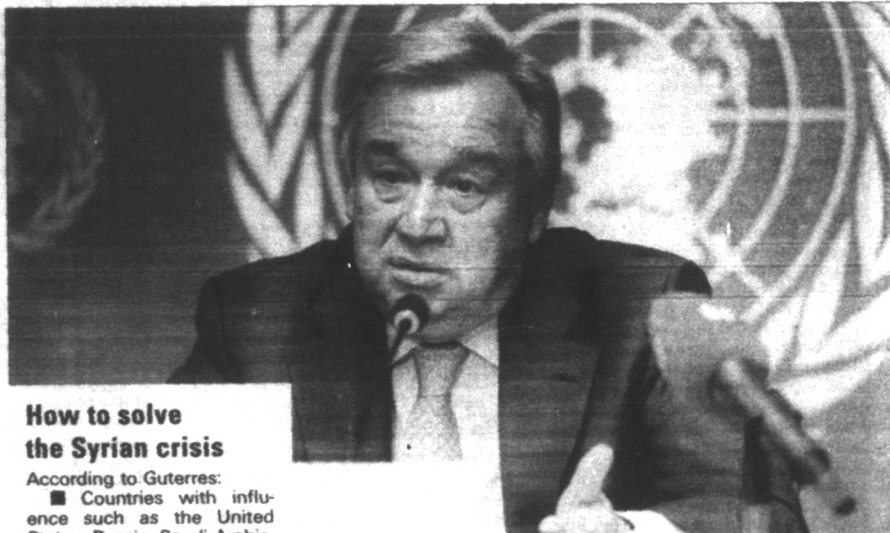
Guterres, nearing the close of his 10-year leadership of the UNHCR office, echoed George's advocacy for religious freedom in a conversation with USCIRF Vice Chairman Eric Schwartz that made up most of the 80-minute event.

"Religious freedom is an essential pillar to any democratic state," Guterres said. When it comes to refugees, "[O]bviously, any form of religious persecution or discrimination is a central cause for refugee status to be granted and for refugee protection to be granted," Guterres told the audience.

The plight of Christians in the Middle East where Christianity began is a great concern to him, Guterres said. "To see those communities at the risk of being eradicated from that area is something that I consider with horror," he said, adding the international community must do all it can to make sure Christian communities are not "religiously cleansed."

Many Christians and other religious minorities are vastly underrepresented in resettlement in the United States because of the U.N. refugee process relied upon by the federal government, said former USCIRF commissioner Nina Shea.

The United States depends on a U.N. resettlement program that "disproportionately excludes" Syrian religious minorities, she wrote in a Nov. 2 commentary for National Review. One reason for



## How to solve the Syrian crisis

According to Guterres:

- Countries with influence such as the United States, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Iran must reach a "common understanding on how to stop this."

- Massive investment in the region must occur to help Syria's neighbors, such as Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey that are overwhelmed by refugees.

- Europe, which has been "very dysfunctional" in response to the attempted influx of Syrian exiles, must mobilize to make certain refugees are "properly received, properly assisted."

- Values such as tolerance and understanding the importance of diversity must be promoted.

this is the UNHCR mostly refers refugees for resettlement from its camps, and non-Muslims seek to avoid such camps and enter church-operated camps instead, Shea said.

Religious minorities reportedly avoid the UNHCR camps because Islamic terrorists reportedly infiltrate them and kidnap and kill Christians, Yazidis, and others.

Christians have made up only 2.6% of the more than 2,000 Syrian refugees admitted to the U.S. since that country's civil war began nearly five years ago, Shea said. Christians made up 10 percent of Syria's population before the conflict, she wrote.

The Obama administration has announced it will increase the annual refugee resettlement ceiling from 70,000 in recent years to 85,000 in 2016. USCIRF has urged the administration to increase the limit to at least 100,000.

With the increase in the refugee quota, "it would be unconscionable to continue with a

process that has consistently forsaken some of the most defenseless and egregiously persecuted of those fleeing Syria," Shea wrote.

The intrusion by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has exacerbated conditions in Syria, which already was afflicted by a conflict between the government of strongman Bashar al-Assad and opposition forces that divided Muslim groups.

While many Syrian refugees have fled to nearby countries, hundreds of thousands are imperiling their lives in an effort to reach Europe. Some have drowned in the attempt.

"Most of these people are fleeing extremely dramatic circumstances," Guterres said, "and if there's an opportunity to risk their lives, they will risk their lives to try to reach a solution for their plight."

## Religious liberty debated after student's disqualification

CUMMING, Ga. (BP and local reports) — The father of a Cumming, Ga., high school student reportedly said he doesn't believe religious suppression motivated officials to throw out his son's third-place finish in a state track meet for wearing a headband imprinted with a Bible passage.

The Georgia High School Association (GHSA) annulled West Forsyth High School senior John Green's finish in the Class 6-A state championship because the headband inscribed with Isaiah 40:30-31 violated competition rules that only allow similar items that are "unadorned except for a logo," the GHSA said in a press release.

The rules don't mention headbands in particular, the GHSA said, but instead specify

"beanies, toboggans, [and] ear covers," and gives referees "the sole authority for ruling on infractions or irregularities not covered within the rules."

Green wore his headband inside out which rendered the letters in reverse, but the lettering was large and still visible, the GHSA said.

According to the Forsyth County News, the competitor's father Jason Green accepts the GHSA's reasoning although his son's supporters questioned whether the runner was disqualified in the Nov. 7 race because of the Scripture on the headband.

"One thing we have been saying to everybody is that we do not believe it was because of the religious nature," the Forsyth County News quoted Jason Green Nov. 11. "At this point, our

concern is for the future. What happened to John has happened. I think [the Georgia High School Association] needs to take a look at this rule and change it and or clarify it so that this doesn't happen to another runner."

The GHSA upheld the disqualification despite an appeal from Forsyth County Schools and a twitter campaign at #FreeThePro — based on the student's shoulder-length, curly hair — calling for the win to be reinstated.

A tweet from Georgia Congressman Douglas Collins, a Republican who represents the district where the school is located, was among expressions accusing officials of violating Green's religious freedom. "Religious expression being squashed right here in the 9th District," Collins tweeted. "This is outrageous."

The GHSA emphatically denied the accusations of religious suppression. "First, let's be completely clear that this disqualification had **NOTHING** [author's emphasis] to do with what was written on the athlete's headband," the GHSA said in upholding its ruling. "The fact that it was of a religious nature did not enter into the decision whatsoever."

"Also, despite published reports to the contrary, the athlete and his coach were informed **BEFORE** [author's emphasis] the start of the race that the headband in question was illegal and **could not be worn** [author's emphasis] during the race."

According to Green's coach Clayton Tillery, two GHSA officials cleared Green to wear the headband before the race, but a

third man not wearing a GHSA uniform "made a comment about the headband at the starting line and walked away," Forsyth County News sportswriter Michael Foster wrote Nov. 11.

In an official statement, Forsyth County Schools expressed displeasure with the ruling. "We stand behind our coach and runner. Forsyth County Schools has no reason to believe that they are not being truthful in regards to the events surrounding this disqualification. Clayton Tillery is a successful veteran coach with high moral and ethical standards."

"Additionally, John Green has had a phenomenal career at West Forsyth High School over the past four years and we appreciate his family's long-term support of our cross country program."

In the summer and fall of 2015, most of Mississippi and especially central Mississippi have gone through one of the most severe droughts in any of our lifetimes. As usual the heat has been dreadful but in normal years we would have had thunderstorms that would have built up and given us a good cooling shower. Not in 2015. It stayed hot and dry, and it got hotter and drier as the days passed by. Then toward the latter part of October, it rained. It didn't just sprinkle. It rained — good, soaking rain.

On the first day of the rain, I went out on my morning walk before sunrise but in the rain. A neighbor ran out to get his newspaper and said to me, "You picked a fine day to go out and walk." I said, "Man, I'm enjoying it. The rain is wonderful." As I headed out to face the day I drove to work in the rain, walked across the parking lot in the rain, went inside, and watched it rain. The thought crossed my mind and I wondered how long it would be before someone — I didn't have anybody in mind, but someone — somewhere would be heard complaining about the rain.

Well, the answer to my question was only a few hours away. It came just before noon. It was still raining. As I was on the way to a meeting away from my office, I stopped to get some gas. When I walked into the convenience store, the person in the store said, "Man, I'm sick and tired of this rain. Aren't you?" I said, "Well, not yet. We've been needing rain for six months and I'm kind of glad it's here." He did not agree with my assessment or opinion, but it kept on raining most of the day into the night into the following day — good, soaking rain. The kind of rain that would reach deep into the ground and not be just evaporated as the sun popped back out. The kind of rain that would help fill the Reservoir back up and the kind of rain that would wash away oil from the



## Conquering Complaining

road. The kind of rain that prevents us from living in a desert.

While I remembered the guy who was not happy about the rain just hours after it began, I began to hear one after another say, "I'll be glad when the rain quits," or "Enough is enough." It kept on raining. In fact it rained so much that by the time October ended, it was the fourteenth wettest October in our state's history and the complaints got louder and louder. It's amazing how quickly we begin complaining about the good things that God does for us.

I'm reminded of God's people in Egypt who had been burdened and enslaved for generation after generation, all the while calling out to God to deliver them, pleading with heaven to send help, a deliverer for them, and then God did. He raised up His leader Moses, preparing him from birth for the great task that was going to be before him. He called him and gifted him and led him to lead His people out of Egypt. Moses comes and faces Pharaoh. He knew though the unfolding process of God as the ten plagues had to take place before Pharaoh would say, "Let the people go."

Sure enough, God took care of His people, guided them, and delivered them, but they were hardly out of sight of their Egyptian slave masters when the complaining began. They complained about Moses, who obviously took the wrong direction, and there they were facing the Red Sea or the Egyptian army. Clearly, Moses was no great leader and they were going to die right there on the edge of Egypt. What they did not know was that not only did Moses know what he was doing, God knew what He was doing. He called for the people to stand still and watch. He opened the Red Sea, destroyed the army of Egypt, and led them on toward the Promised Land. As they crossed the desert floor, soon it became clear that they had ample reason to complain again. They're going to starve out there on the desert.

God had not left His people alone and He still knew what He was doing and what He could do for them. He instructs Moses to get up the next morning and look around and there they were going to find manna. Manna from heaven just there at their tent's door. Not only

was it there that day, but the next and the next. For forty years, He kept giving them manna, but how soon we begin to complain about the good things that God does for us. One of the incredible complaints that came was that they were sick of manna and they wanted meat, so of all things God gave them quail meat — delicious, wonderful quail meat. He blessed them with the goodness of the quail cuisine to the point that they were stuffed and sick of quail. You can imagine that the complaints began to rise again.

Thanksgiving is before us and I would like to encourage you to do two things. **One, think of the good things in your life about which you are complaining.** Maybe it's your job. Maybe you think you have reason to complain about your job. Just stop long enough to think about people who either do not have a job or physically are unable to work. Maybe you've been complaining about your companion or your children, the good things that God has put in your life. Oh, I know all of us can drive each other crazy at times, but what a good thing God has done for most of us and the privilege He has given us to be blessed by our family members. Just think about the good things about which you have gotten in the habit of complaining.

**The other thing I would encourage you to do is this — focus on the goodness of God and thank Him for all of the blessings that He has poured out into your life and for all of the difficulties from which He has protected you.** Turn your complaints into cries of joy and celebrations of blessings. This Thanksgiving, regardless of what's going on in your life, could well be your best.

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## College News



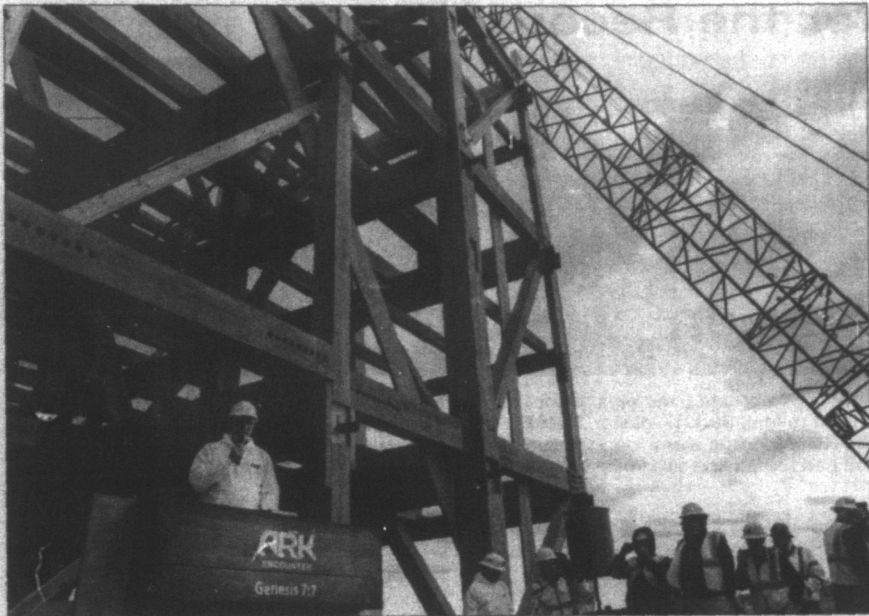
(ABOVE) WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY student-athletes (from left) Larson Barkurn of Petal, a baseball player, and Hope Biggs of Clinton, a golfer, were recently awarded David M. Halbrook Certificates for Academic Achievement Among Athletes and recognized during Carey's weekly chapel service on November 11. Two student-athletes from each institution of higher learning in the state are selected annually for the certificates based on academic scores, athletic contribution, character, community service and leadership.

(AT RIGHT) WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY hosted a reunion for students of Mississippi Woman's College, one of Carey's predecessor institutions, on October 30 at the Hattiesburg campus. Pictured are students of Woman's College along with Tommy King, Carey president, and his wife, Sandra (standing, far right); Scott Hummel, Carey provost (standing, far left); and Barbara Hamilton, executive assistant to the president (standing, second from left).



(AT LEFT) Thirty-eight student nurses from MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, all seniors, gave flu shots and offered information about Alzheimer's disease, dieting, blood pressure, exercise, cholesterol counts, smoking, and strokes during the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson, Oct. 27 – 28. Shown are Kimberly Dunaway, Florence, Caroline Brown, Jackson, and Abbie Amato, New Orleans.





**OPENING ANNOUNCED** — Ken Ham (left), co-founder and CEO of Answers in Genesis, announces the July 7 opening date of the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Ky. The life-sized replica of Noah's Ark is expected to be the largest timber-frame building in the world. (BP photo courtesy of Kentucky Today)

## Ark Encounter in Kentucky set to open mid-year 2016

**WILLIAMSTOWN, Ky.** — Modern-day construction crews will finish in about a year what it took Noah a century to do: build an ark. Work on the life-sized replica of Noah's Ark is expected to be completed and opened for visitors on July 7, 2016.

The infrastructure of the mammoth boat rises above a rural swath of rolling farmland in Williamstown, Ky., about a half hour south of Cincinnati. Cranes are doing the heavy lifting, putting massive wooden beams in place some four stories high.

Ken Ham, co-founder and CEO of Answers in Genesis, said the Ark Encounter theme park is opening on schedule despite the State of Kentucky refusing to provide a hoped-for package of tax incentives.

Answers in Genesis, the company building the ark, already operates a Creation Museum in nearby Petersburg.

The Ark Encounter will be open for "40 days and 40 nights" during its first 40 days of operation, in reference to the 40 days and 40 nights of rain described in the Bible as the flood commenced. When completed, the ark is expected to be the largest timber-frame building in the world at 510 feet long.

"It's really not commonplace for a conservative Christian organization to



"We look on the Ark... as really a facility for the church. It's really for God's people to use to bring others to help make the Christian message real to them and to start up a conversation."

**Ken Ham**  
co-founder and CEO  
of Answers in Genesis

actually be building such a world-class, professional, themed attraction as the Ark Encounter," Ham said, "but by the grace of God, we are thrilled and thankful that we've been entrusted with such a project as this."

The project will cost a total of \$102.7 million and will feature 132 exhibit bays with an "educational and entertaining" Christian message.

Ham said the Ark Encounter will offer an opportunity for Kentucky churches to reach out to out-of-town visitors, as well as friends and neighbors. "We look on the Ark... as really a facility for the church," he said. "It's really for God's people to use to bring others to help make the Christian message real to them and to start up a conversation."

The Ark Encounter is expected to draw between 1.4 and 2.2 million visitors a year, boosting the economy for the region.

The state of Kentucky initially approved a tax incentive package worth millions for the Ark Encounter, but reversed their decision last year due to the religious nature of the theme park.

The tourism incentive would have allowed the project to recover 25% of development costs through sales tax rebates after the Ark opens.

The ark's builders are suing in federal court to get the incentive back, and Ham says he expects the judge to rule at any time.

Tickets for the Ark Encounter will go on sale to the general public beginning Jan. 19, 2016. Tickets are priced at \$40 for adults, \$28 for children, and \$31 for seniors. Parking is \$10.

## Abuse allegations cloud image of imprisoned pastor

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — The wife of imprisoned American pastor Saeed Abedini has voiced regret for emails she sent to close friends reportedly accusing the pastor of spousal abuse stemming from what was described in press reports as his addiction to pornography.

In two emails to close friends, Naghmeh Abedini disclosed that her marriage to Saeed Abedini, currently being held in the harsh Iranian prison system, has been troubled by "physical, emotional, psychological, and sexual abuse (through Saeed's addiction to pornography)," Christianity Today reported Nov. 12.

Naghmeh Abedini publicly addressed the e-mails a day later. "I regret having sent the e-mails," she said in a statement released Nov. 13 through the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) in Washington, D.C., which is representing her. "I was under great psychological and emotional distress. I am now taking time off to heal and to rest and to spend much needed time with my kids."

She did not retract the content of the e-mails. Baptist Press does not have access to the emails, which reportedly were never intended for wide release.

"I would appreciate for those who care about Saeed and our family to give us time for rest and healing and to respect our privacy," Naghmeh Abedini said through the ACLJ. "I will continue to pray for my husband's release and advocate for him as he suffers in an Iranian prison for his Christian faith. I would also ask others to join me in continuing to pray for his release."

Christianity Today reported Saeed Abedini has continued to abuse his wife since his 2012 imprisonment for his faith, communicating with her through "phone and Skype." Saeed Abedini has kept in touch with his public supporters through letters and messages relayed through family members who have been

able to visit, according to media reports in Baptist Press and other news services.

The ACLJ would not comment on Saeed Abedini's reported use of Skype in a high security prison where he has been subjected to beatings and inadequate medical care, but the organization said it is committed to continue advocating for the pastor.

"In recent days, Naghmeh — Pastor Saeed's wife — has revealed that she is dealing with some very serious personal issues inside her family. She has asked for privacy and prayer. We are respecting her request," the ACLJ said in a statement.

"The ACLJ will not have any comment on the personal issues that she is addressing. What we are focused on is this: bringing home an American pastor who has been wrongly imprisoned in Iran because of his faith."

"We know that Pastor Saeed remains in grave danger in prison where he continues to be beaten and psychologically abused by Iranian guards and remains in need of medical care," the ACLJ said. "We continue to pray for Naghmeh, Pastor Saeed, and their family. We will continue our work — in this country and abroad — to secure the freedom of this U.S. citizen."

Saeed Abedini was sentenced Jan. 27, 2013, to eight years in prison on charges he threatened national security by planting house churches in Iran years earlier. He had been under house arrest since July 2012.

Naghmeh Abedini has advocated widely for her husband's release, maintaining a Facebook page, meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama, testifying before the U.S. Congress, and in many venues. She marked Sept. 27, the third anniversary of her husband's imprisonment, with fasting and a prayer vigil in Boise, Idaho, where she and the couple's two children reside. It was one of 810 such commemorations held worldwide in support of the pastor.



**NAGHMEH (LEFT) AND SAEED ABEDINI**

## Just for the Record



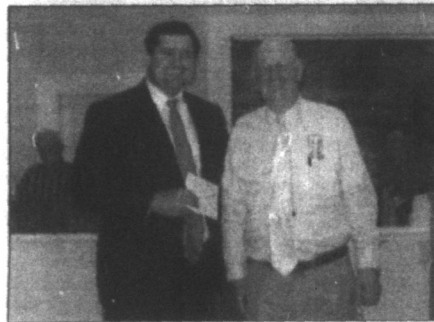
**FAIR RIVER CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, recently recognized and honored Catherine Day with an engraved crystal vase for over 25 years as Sunday School secretary. Shown are Day and pastor Jay Anderson.



Caroline Mendrop is shown presenting the keys to her late husband Othel's golf cart to Matt Buckles, pastor, **FIRST CHURCH, VICKSBURG**. Mendrop was a long-time educator in Warren County and had served as a deacon at the church for over 50 years.



**NEW HEIGHTS CHURCH, MCCOMB**, held a deacon ordination service for Danny McAnnally Nov. 8. Shown are deacon chairman Ricky Ivy, McAnnally, and pastor Rick Kennedy.



Pastor Roger Crosswhite received a monetary gift from **LIBERTY HILL CHURCH, POPE**, for pastor's appreciation.



The Feed My Sheep ministry of **SILVER CREEK CHURCH, MCCOMB**, served a birthday lunch to honor some of the women in the two ladies' Sunday School classes.



**FAITH CHURCH, SALTILLO**, honored Rex Yancey for 50 years in ministry Oct. 11. He serves the church as interim pastor.



**NEW HENLYFIELD CHURCH, CARRIERE**, recognized pastor Ray Allen and his wife Ann for their service.



Several women from **RIVERPORT CHURCH, GREENVILLE**, met on Women's Day of Prayer Nov. 2 to pray for one another.



**FIRST CHURCH, MORTON**, hosted guest singer Jared Vardaman Nov. 8.



**CARROLLTON CHURCH, CARROLLTON**, recently ordained Chris Daves as deacon. Shown are pastor Fletcher Moorman, Daves, and deacon chairman George Hays.



**HOPEWELL CHURCH, BUDE**, held a recognition ceremony for Children in Action members in October. The kids earned over 80 badges for their dedication to missions in the church and community.



West Frazure was recently ordained as deacon at **WILLIAMSVILLE CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO**. Shown are pastor Junior Davis, Margaret Davis, Frazure, and his wife Dawn.



## Just for the Record



Senior adults from **FIRST CHURCH, FLORA**, visited Branson, Missouri, Oct. 19 - 22. Gil Powell, senior leader; Becky Richardson, travel coordinator.



Newly elected officers of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen for 2016 include: Byron Green, Central Area Director; Eric McNair, Vice President; John McNair, South Area Director; Hugh Plunkett, President; Matthew Gaddy, Secretary/Treasurer; Bobby Sanderson, North Area Director.



**CROOKED CREEK CHURCH, SILVER CREEK**, culminated a VBS project with the dedication of 100 shoe boxes, which were delivered to West Virginia in late October. Shown is transitional pastor David Caves with the children's sermon participants.



**FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, MCCOMB**, honored veterans during the Nov. 11 service.



### In other Church News:

➤ **Magnolia Church, Laurel**, is hosting the Magnolia Boys in concert Nov. 21, 6 p.m.

➤ **Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie**, is hosting Jason Runnels in concert Nov. 22, 6 p.m. Love offering.

**BETHEL CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, recognized 34 senior adults Oct. 25. Pastor Matthew Wallace brought the message and a catered lunch was provided after the morning worship service.



**CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, sponsored a Harvest Fun Night. Shown are the youth and children.



#### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GLENN DENTON:

Our desire is to have a Baptist conference where preaching is emphasized! You'll hear amazing music, have a shoutin' good time, but most of all we'll hear Bible preaching from the best preachers in America!

It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.  
1 Corinthians 1:21

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
Worship w/HBC (6:30 pm)  
Two evening preachers

THURSDAY & FRIDAY  
Worship w/HBC (9:00 am)  
Three morning preachers  
Lunch provided  
Afternoon free  
Worship w/HBC (6:30 pm)  
Two evening preachers

#### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

COMFORT SUITES  
(Conference Hotel)  
(615)443-0027

LAQUINTA INN & SUITES  
(615)470-1001

HAMPTON INN & SUITE  
(615)444-3445

QUALITY INN  
(615)444-7020

Hillcrest Baptist Church  
621 Hartsville Pike  
Lebanon, TN 37087



**FIRST CHURCH, AMORY**, ordained Steven Reeves and Chuck Tubb as deacons Oct. 18. Shown are Reeves, his wife Jennifer, pastor Allen Simpson, Tubb, and his wife Sharon.

# LifeWay reopening search for new headquarters

**NASHVILLE (BP and local reports)** — LifeWay Christian Resources is stepping away from the purchase of a 1.5-acre site in downtown Nashville to look at other sites for a new headquarters, LifeWay President Thom Rainer said in a Nov. 16 letter to employees of the Southern Baptist Convention's publishing house.

Rainer also said LifeWay intends to complete the sale of its current 14.5-acre campus on Broadway Avenue in downtown Nashville.

LifeWay's bid for the 1.5-acre property was accepted in July for \$12.7 million with a \$4.9 million tax incentive, lowering the overall cost to less than \$8 million. The site is owned by Nashville's Metro Development and Housing Agency and is situated across the Cumberland River from Nissan Stadium, home of the NFL's Tennessee Titans.

Rainer, in his letter to LifeWay employees, said, "The property is a great downtown location, and would be an exciting place for our new build-

"The property is a great downtown location, and would be an exciting place for our new building. But, we have concluded it's not the best location for LifeWay. ...We simply have found other potential downtown properties that are a better fit for LifeWay's future."

**Thom Rainer**

**LifeWay President**

ing. But, we have concluded it's not the best location for LifeWay. ...We simply have found other potential downtown properties that are a better fit for LifeWay's future.

"We still anticipate closing on the sale of our property to [the development group] Uptown Nashville in the next few days," Rainer continued. "And, we will let you know as soon as we can about where we intend to build LifeWay's new headquarters."

Once sold, the current LifeWay property, which is near the city's historic rail lines and across the street from historic Union Train Station, will

be redeveloped by Uptown Nashville into a mixed-use development including office, retail, residential, entertainment and hotel components, according to various reports.

LifeWay stated in July that its new headquarters would encompass 216,000 square feet in facilities best suited for the ministry's future. LifeWay's current site encompasses several buildings with more than one million square feet of office, warehouse, and parking space. About 1,100 of LifeWay's employees work in the downtown offices, utilizing about a third of the workspace.



**LIFEWAY HEADQUARTERS IN NASHVILLE**

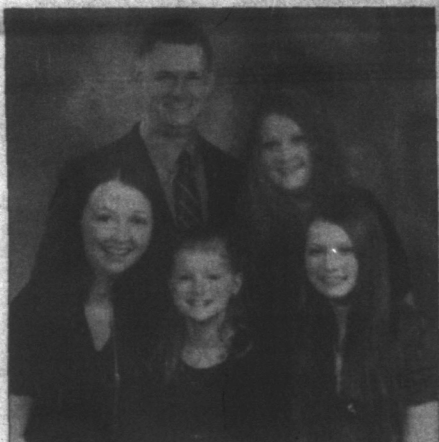
The SBC entity also operates 186 LifeWay stores and a national conference center in Ridgecrest, N.C., with a total workforce of more than 4,000 in 29 states.

While LifeWay has not announced a sale price, The Ten-

nessean daily newspaper in Nashville stated that Uptown Nashville will pay "around \$125 million" for the current LifeWay property.

LifeWay was founded in 1891 as the Baptist Sunday School Board.

## Staff Changes



**BEACON STREET CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA**, has called Jonathan David Fedrick of Grenada as pastor. Shown are Fedrick, his wife Connie, and three daughters: Catherine, Gabrielle, and Susan.



**TRINITY CHURCH, FULTON**, has called David Haynes as pastor. He is shown with his wife, April, and daughter, Taylor.



**BLACK JACK CHURCH, VAUGHAN**, has called Nate Sisson, Biloxi, as student minister. He is a student at Mississippi College. Shown are Sisson and pastor David White.

## Submission Guidelines



The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).



## MS POSITIONS

**NON BAPTIST CHURCH, WALTHAM COUNTY IS SEARCHING FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL OR STUDENT MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Please send resume with references to D.Rand at dana.rand@goldenliving.com.

**PART-TIME MINISTRY ASSISTANT** Perform general office work for the Pastor, Ministers of Music, Youth and Children. Responsible for bulletin, posting of receipts, distribute mail, order and distribute class materials. Quick books and Servant Keeper. Training will be provided. Hours M-Th 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Email resume to hebronbaptist@bellsouth.net.

**POSITION OPENING: PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER.** New Sight Baptist Church, Brookhaven, MS. Please email resumes to attn: Youth Minister Search Committee newlightbc@cableone.com or mail to 629 Forest Trail NE, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SUMRALL, MISS., SEEKS FULL-TIME MINISTER TO CHILDREN/DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES.** Bachelor's degree required (seminary preferred); prior experience working with children and in congregational or organizational setting required (experience as children's minister or equivalent preferred). Send resume and cover letter to office@fbcsumrall.org.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ELLISVILLE IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER.** Send resumes to First Baptist Church, attention: John Howard Robertson/Search Committee, 302 E Holly St., Ellisville, MS 39437 or email: efbcyouthmin@gmail.com

**STRONGHOPE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH MINISTER.** All resumes can be sent to Stronghope Baptist Church, attention Search Committee, 5006 Monticello Rd., Wesson, Ms 39191 or email to shbcsearchcommittee@yahoo.com

**ECRU BAPTIST CHURCH IS IN SEARCH OF A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH.** Please send resumes to: Minister of Youth Search Committee, 550 Main Street, Ecrum, MS 38841 or email to Justin McMillen at justin@ecrubaptist.org

**NEEDED: FULL TIME OR BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN AT ASHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH IN ASHLAND, MS.** Send resumes to Mr. Stanley Poff, P.O. Box 35, Ashland, MS 38603 or email to stanley-poff@yahoo.com

**FBC MENDENHALL IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Please send resume to PO Box 366 Mendenhall, MS 39114 or email to swarren@fbcmenhall.org

**FULL-TIME MINISTER OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC.** North Winona Baptist Church in Winona, MS is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Minister of Worship and Music. Please send resumes to 602 Alberta Drive, Winona, MS 38967 or email to mwbcmoffice@att.net

**CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH OF MAGEE, MS IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE YOUTH MINISTER POSITION TILL DECEMBER 7TH.** Those interested please send your resume to: Corinth Baptist Church, attn: Youth Search Committee, 207 Church Rd, Magee, MS 39111.

**MORRISON CHAPEL BC IN CLEVELAND MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR.** Please send resumes to George Barefoot, 1612 Deering St, Cleveland MS 38732 or barefoot1016@hotmail.com. For more information call 662-719-5445.

**COPIAH COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION SEEKING PART-TIME ASSOCIATION MISSION DIRECTOR.** Please send resumes to: Mr. Larry Papizan, Copiah County Baptist Association, P.O. Box 230, Hazlehurst MS 39083.

## PARIS

cont. from p. 1

one driving thought: 'Paris needs Jesus.'

"There are so many hurting people in our city," said Rebecca Edwards (not her real name), a Christian worker in Paris. "Aside from those who have been personally affected by the loss of loved ones or the terror of being directly involved in the attacks, there are millions of people living in this city who do not have the hope that comes with knowing of the love of Jesus Christ."

Friday night's carnage included three separate explosions near the national stadium, where an international soccer match was being held. The deadliest onslaught was

at the Bataclan concert hall, where a death metal rock group was playing. Attackers there took hostages and engaged in a standoff with police until nearly 1 a.m. Saturday.

French President Francois Hollande called the attacks "an act of war." Retaliatory air strikes by France on ISIS locations in Syria began on Sunday.

Michael Harrington, a Baptist worker in France, said, "These were not shootings in dark neighborhoods, not government targets, not military quarrels. Rather, the shootings and bombings today happened in the places of Paris in which life occurs every day: cafes, restaurants, the stadium, a concert hall. The purpose was clear: death, pain and terror."

"Are the French people hurting? Without a doubt. Many will

find their loved ones home and safe, but there are over 300 people that are not home, nor safe. Our hearts hurt. Our colleagues in the French Baptist Federation expressed solidarity in the face of hurt, pleading adherence to 1 Timothy 2:1-8, which calls for petitions, prayers and intercession."

The federation's website posted a response to Friday's Paris attacks, saying, "Again this year, our country has now experienced the horror of terrorism: dark, cold, blind, and blinded. France, where a state of emergency has been declared, wakes up in pain, grief and bereavement."

"Beyond outrage, sadness and incomprehension, the Baptist Federation shares compassion for the victims and families affected by these murderous attacks. It encourages all to mobilize our churches to actions of help and support in prayer. The Bible invites us to establish a footprint of prayer in truth and love, commitment and authenticity."

Trey Cassidy (not his real name), an IMB strategy leader in France, said, "We mourn with our French brothers and sisters that many did not come home after the attacks. It brings to mind the verse in John that our enemy is a thief who 'comes to steal, kill, and destroy.'" He encouraged the Christian community to not wait and see how others will respond to this tragedy. "Let us, as the body of Christ, be the first to respond with comfort for those grieving and an offer to share our hope," he said.

## BIBL i O C I P H E R

LSO AP XLBO YT YAPF LEE, BQ LSJ FLS

HBEE NTFP LQYPW FP, EPY ABF OPSJ

ABFXPEQ, LSO YLDP ZU ABX NWTXX

OLBEJ, LSO QTEETH FP.

EZDP SBSP: YHPSYJ-YAWPP

Clue:  $X = S$

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans 8:11

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Revivals & Homecomings

► Fairview Church, Indianapolis: 142nd homecoming, Nov. 22; worship, 10:30 a.m., with fellowship meal; Tom McLaughlin, speaker.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE:** Retired Southern Baptist Navy chaplain available for Sunday pulpit supply on short notice (pastor illness, vacation, rest, etc.). 100 mile radius of Hattiesburg. Member of Hardy Street Baptist Church. Graduate of New Orleans Baptist and Fuller Theological Seminaries. References available. Compensation unimportant. Contact Dr. Benny J. Hornsby at 601-408-4608 or villefranche60@yahoo.com

**CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE:** 15ft. padded church pews, seat and back w/ blue fabric. 22+ available, \$100.00 each. Would like to sale all at one time but will consider other options. Can send pictures if needed, will need to pick up. Call Chris Lewellen @ 662-837-2581. Ripley, MS.

**PEWS FOR SALE.** 23 pews, 12 feet long. Seats 175-200 people. Like new with padded seat, back, and padded on rear back as well. Hunter green with a peach tint. Color can match a variety of color schemes. All pews for \$3,900. Contact Jerry Tidwell at 731-668-1111 or email at jtiddwell8787@gmail.com

**AUTUMN LEAVES TOUR OCT 7-20, 2016.** Fly into Philadelphia and begin a tour that includes Niagara Falls, New York, Boston and the New England States. Call S. McIntire at (662) 494-7917 for information.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MANSFIELD, LOUISIANA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF WORSHIP AND ADULT MINISTRIES.** Please send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, 1710 McArthur Drive, Mansfield, LA 71052.

**WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP** — windows and storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call Tom Cook 601-709-4879.

**STAINED GLASS:** new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson. 601-502-0202

**UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER.** Send resumes to University Baptist Church, Attention: Ashley Barrios/Search Committee, 904 Menard Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301 or email ubcc@ubcthibodaux.net

**GET THE BEST RATES ON:** Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

**GATLINBURG RENTAL:** Cabin \$95/night. Contact: 832-922-0401 or Email: pdiw4760@att.net for information and booking.

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., OLD BIBLES REBOUND.** Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES.** Davis Upholstery, Quilman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

**STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC.,** serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

**WWW.SEBRENHOMEIMPROVEMENT.COM.** Christian owned Don & Rita Sebrén. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

**HELP WANTED:** Sebrén Home Improvement is looking for part-time sales representatives. Excellent opportunity for a retiree. Flexible work schedule and excellent earning potential. Customer service skills a plus. Will train the right person. 601-932-2092

**AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS:** Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners, lowest prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com. 205-556-0368. 205-752-1231. 251-752-2366

## Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



**Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director**

P.O. Box 27

Clinton, MS 39060-0027

(601) 922-2242

[www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com)

## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**OCTOBER 16-31, 2015**

### HONORS

Gerald Hasselman  
Children & Grandchildren  
Mrs. Nerine Merkle  
Mrs. Robert F. Neely, Jr.

**OCTOBER 16-31, 2015**

### MEMORIALS

Mrs. Mildred O. Alexander  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Alexander  
Rev. Troy Bankston  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Mrs. Barbara Bishop  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Tommy Carpenter  
Alice & Suzanne Buford  
Mrs. Margaret Christmond  
Class of 1942  
Mrs. Janelle Clay  
Dorothy White Smith  
Webber Crawford  
Dr. & Mrs. Neil H. Simmons  
Mrs. Fredna Huff Crumpton  
Mrs. Willie Grace Myatt  
Mrs. Patricia C. Duckworth  
Alberta M. Douglas  
Mr. Lowrey A. Rogers  
Mr. Bob Duran  
Patricia & Annie Pearl Triplett  
Henry Esch  
Mrs. Penny Washington  
Mrs. Nell Ann Farmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis McNeil  
Mr. Weldon Fortenberry  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Gregory Stephen Galloway  
Mr. & Mrs. Vaughn Galloway  
Jacqueline Galloway  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Jordan  
Geania Cornelius Sewell  
Robert T. Jeffries T.Sgt USAF

Retired  
Howard Lee Cornelius  
Robert T. Jeffries T.Sgt USAF  
Retired  
Douglas Gentry  
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas, Jr.  
Mason Anderson Gregory  
Betty Cryder  
Mrs. Myrtis Hearn  
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Diffey  
Mrs. Bettye Hemphill  
Adult III Men's SSC, Neshoba BC  
Harold B. Hill  
Mrs. Krishna McCaleb  
Yvonne Hodgins  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Jordan  
Mildred Katherine Mackey  
Ikard  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Stephenson, Sr.  
Mrs. Polly Ingram  
Mr. Jim Boozer  
Matthew Jenkins  
Arlington Heights BC  
Mr. Horace Kerr  
Mrs. Betty Cryder  
Horace Kerr  
Mrs. Billie Lynn Arthur  
Matthew Kirk  
Brian, Teri & Walker Manning  
Mrs. Opal Leake  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick N. Conerly  
Mrs. Dally "Sis" Lepard  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew  
Mrs. Billie Madison  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Alexander  
Mr. Bud Manning  
Mrs. Gwen S. Daves  
Cynthia Bush Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Tuggle  
Betty Ann McDuff  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter  
Joni Chafon McGarrh  
Trinity BC  
Mrs. Mary Wheeler Gray  
Messer

Mrs. Mary Margaret Tatum  
Mr. Eddie Miles  
Patricia & Annie Pearl Triplett  
Kenneth Millican  
Mrs. Penny Washington  
Mildred K. Mitchell  
Jimmy & Jill Blount  
Ms. Doris Donahoe  
Ms. Sue Mitchell Moore  
Pleasant Hill BC  
Ms. Bonnie H. Thornton  
Mrs. Penny Washington  
Davis A. Morgan  
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Dean  
Douglas Eldon Morris  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph E. Morris  
Sue Nickell  
Ms. Sue B. Tarsi  
Bob Palmer  
Mrs. Peggy Palmer  
Allen Patterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Harris  
Mrs. Lorraine Pigott  
Mrs. Tena Haskins  
Karen Pittman  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brents  
Welton Virgil Powell  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Pilgrim  
Amy Redwine  
Turkey Creek BC  
Mrs. Edith Revels  
Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Newton  
James Roberts  
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Drennan  
Sheffield Royer  
Unity BC, Adult Three SSC  
Joe Shepard  
Mrs. June D. Shepard  
Candy Smith  
Juniper Grove BC  
Mr. Sam Stephenson  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Louise Stevens  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick  
Rev. David Strebeck  
Stanton BC  
Mr. William C. "Shorty" Sumrall  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Hood  
Mr. & Mrs. James H. McBeth  
Walter Watts SSC, FBC  
Glendale  
Mr. Richard Thornton  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew  
Mrs. Juaneuse West  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Bishop  
Mrs. Mary West  
Mrs. Lucille H. Harris  
Mrs. Dot Whitten  
Mrs. Loretta M. Kirk  
Reva Daniel SSC, Morrison Heights BC  
Mrs. Lorine Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Alexander  
Mary Bunch Williams  
Lt. Col. (Ret.) & Mrs. William H. Lacey  
Arrington Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim King  
Ms. Olyease Wingate  
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh  
Dot Winstead  
Ralph, Mildred & Nancy Gardner  
Linda, William & Mike Henley

**NOVEMBER 1-15, 2015**

### HONORS

Mr. Steve Adams  
Mr. & Mrs. Troy N. Alford  
Mary Alta Clark  
Mrs. Marilyn W. Brady  
Rev. Steve and Patty Clark  
Mr. & Mrs. Troy N. Alford  
Dr. Andrew and Sarah Dale  
Mr. & Mrs. Troy N. Alford  
Randy Bullock and Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Troy N. Alford  
Rev. Woody Rimes Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Troy N. Alford

Joey, Rory and Indy Feek  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Melton  
Mark and Jamie Mathis  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan C. Hurdle  
Jay and Marjorie McKinney  
Women's II (Ruth) SSC, Iuka BC  
Sean and Elizabeth Milner  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Porter  
Charles Renfrow  
Mrs. Edna M. Gilliland  
Eloise Walker  
Mrs. Anita Graham  
Jeff and Denise Webb  
Mr. & Mrs. Troy N. Alford  
Rev. Ron and Paula West  
Mr. & Mrs. Troy N. Alford

**NOVEMBER 1-15, 2015**

### MEMORIALS

Shirley Anthony  
Mrs. Pam Simmons  
John Ballard  
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Webb  
Betty Barlow  
Mrs. Tolitha Stanford  
Seth Beasley  
Mr. Douglas N. Allen  
Mrs. Bobbie Black  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew  
Dr. Dewey Blackledge  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman H. Dungan  
Mr. Larry Braddock  
Mrs. Joe D. Roberts  
Shirley Brewer  
"Young at Heart Singers",  
FBC McComb  
Mrs. Willie Mae Brister  
Mrs. Dora L. Murray  
Mrs. Marilyn W. Brady  
Jahazel Buckley  
Mr. Ted Buckley  
Mason Bullock  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lowery  
Doris Burchett  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Paynter  
Mrs. Doris Denson Burchett  
Mrs. Cherry L. Denson  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Burnett &

Family  
Mr. Lon Clemmons  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Wilkinson  
Joe Crews  
Stanton BC  
Edward Cutts  
Mr. & Mrs. Bennie Nutt  
Joseph Eason  
Mr. James L. Bell  
Rev. & Mrs. Leon Emery  
Ron Emery and Sharon Emery Harden  
Jimmy Ervin  
Mrs. Tolitha Stanford  
Lenora A. Evans  
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas, Jr.  
John Thomas Gillum Sr.  
Grumpy Ole Men SSC, Rawls Springs BC  
Billy Gordon  
Mrs. Tolitha Stanford  
Jane Ellen Gordon  
Mrs. Marilyn W. Brady  
Mr. Ben F. Griffin  
Charles & Gail Davis  
Mr. Bobby Gene Harrington  
Adult 3 SSC, Unity BC  
Mr. & Mrs. Darren Talley  
Mr. & Mrs. H. B. McKnight  
Alpha One Imaging  
Mr. & Mrs. George T. Volz  
Deborah Hassig  
Dr. Jim Watson  
Bette Bowman Harrington  
Ms. Linda C. Walsh  
Ms. Felicia Harrington  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew  
Dr. Minnie John Hill  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Poindexter  
Luther Dean Hyde  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sisco  
Mildred Ikard  
Faith SSC, Emmanuel BC  
Doris Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Jones  
Joyce Jones  
Mrs. Tolitha Stanford  
Mr. Larry Kimball  
Daniel, Dianne & Alissa Smith

Iaez Kittrell  
Mrs. Tolitha Stanford  
Mrs. Lois Lester  
Mr. Tony Rogers  
Talmadge Littlejohn  
Mr. Don Evans  
Marjorie Lomax  
Arthur & Alicia (Powell)  
Burnett, Wesley, Caroline & Brandon  
Dewey Madison  
Branch BC  
Ida Mae and Gene Magee  
Mrs. Mary Nell Broom  
Robert G. Mason  
Mrs. Tolitha Stanford  
Delmas McAlpin  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Pilgrim  
Mrs. Betty Ann McDuff  
Valley Park BC  
Ethel B. McKinley  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen D. Fortenberry  
Kendall McPhail  
Bonnie, Luke and Mandy Daughdrill  
Mr. Kenneth Millican  
Rev. Jimmy Breland  
Winnie Farmer Dilmore Mize  
Sammy Gunter  
Tim & Marianna Pardue  
Cathy Brister Trotti  
Shauna Hutton  
Mona Varner  
Mr. Davis Morgan  
Ms. Carolyn C. Pogue  
Mr. Jesse Morgan  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew  
Rev. E. L. Mullen  
Mrs. Rosemary Hughes and Family  
Jeannette Newell  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sisco  
Dr. Beal Ong  
Robert T. Jeffries, TSgt. USAF  
Retired  
Mr. James Owen  
Juniper Grove BC, Ruth SSC  
William Ross Pannell  
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse R. Johnson  
J. V. and Mary K. Parker  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Parker

## BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at [ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com).



## The Faith Test • Genesis 22:1-14

I must admit that this passage in the Bible is not one of my favorites. It disturbs me and challenges my view of God Almighty. Yet He is the Potter and I am the clay. Who can know the mind of God? This passage in Genesis 22 reveals truths about Him we obviously need to know. Many have written about this story that Abraham misunderstood God, but that view contradicts the text that clearly says the Lord tested Abraham. Like it or not, God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son. With the advantage of knowing the conclusion of the story first, we see that God was simply testing Abraham's commitment to Him and was painting a picture of His willingness to sacrifice His own Son. Imagine this story from Abraham's viewpoint.

James 1:12 reads, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." (KJV). The Old Testament and the New Testament words here translated "temptation" are equally translated in the scripture as test or trial. This makes sense because when we are tested and tried, it also becomes a temptation for us. God wanted to see what Abraham was made of, so He asked of him the most difficult sacrifice.

God is not the author of child sacrifice, so this was simply a test of Abraham. James 1:13-14 reads, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." (KJV). Hebrews 11:17-19, adds, "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, that in Isaac shall thy seed be called: accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." (KJV). This New Testament passage reveals that at the heart of Abraham's faith and obedience in his willingness to sacrifice his son Isaac was that he understood that God could even have raised Isaac from the dead after he sacrificed him. Abraham truly did trust God enough to obey Him.

Abraham and Isaac journeyed three days south to Mount Moriah, to the place where the Lord showed him. One side of Mount Moriah would eventually be called the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and the other side of that mountain would eventually be known as Mount Calvary. So God in His timeless and inimitable way was revealing to future generations that His plan all along was to sacrifice His only son on Mount Calvary. As

stopped Abraham from killing his son and there was a ram caught in a nearby thicket. The Lord had provided a substitutionary sacrifice in the exact place that ultimately He would provide the supreme substitutionary sacrifice for us all, His son Jesus Christ. Like Isaac we all must ask, "Where is the sacrifice to pay for my sins?" And as his father answered, our Father answers, "I have seen to it."

John 8:56 reads, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad." (KJV). When we remember what Abraham went through with his son Isaac and how God provided a substitute sacrifice then, we understand how much more Abraham rejoiced to see the day of Jesus, who was our Father's permanent substitution for all our sins. Hebrews 10:10 reads, "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (KJV). At the conclusion of the story, God said that He knew that Abraham truly did fear Him and would not even withhold his only son. Because of Jesus, we know that God loves us and would not even withhold his own Son.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.



### Explore the Bible

with Rick Henson

Abraham and Isaac came to the place, Isaac ask his father, "Where is the lamb?" Abraham replied, "The Lord will provide."

Most all translations use the word "provide" here, though the original Hebrew word is the verb "to see." Interestingly, our word provide comes from two Latin words, pro and video. Even our word "provide" means "to see." God will see to it. The angel

## Act Faithfully • Daniel 6:6-10, 13-16, 19-22

When you were growing up, did your parents read you a bedtime story from a big Bible storybook? If so, you vividly recall some of the stories of Daniel and his friends. You may have dozed off imagining the grandeur of Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue, the way Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walked around in the fiery furnace, how big the hand was that wrote on the palace walls, and, from today's lesson, what Daniel and the lions did all night!

Since we've reached adulthood, we realize there is much more to these Bible lessons than we understood as a child. This week's lesson brings to a conclusion our six-session study, in which we've addressed the need to develop conviction, pray fervently, stand courageously, live humbly, confront sin, and act faithfully. Reviewing these lessons and prayerfully considering the principles can prepare us for spiritual struggles (see Ephesians 6:12).

Biblical historians tell us Daniel was at least 80 years old at the time chapter commences. He'd spent most of his life in this godless culture. However, he had maintained a close relationship with God while becoming the best servant-leader he could be. His administrative skill, trustworthiness, and wisdom made him such a valued worker, "the king planned to set him over

the whole kingdom" (Daniel 6:3). His success bred jealousy among the satraps (leaders) and administrators, and they tried to find fault. But so sterling was the quality of Daniel's work, nothing could be criticized.

These leaders realized the only thing they would be able to use against Daniel was his faith, so they devised a treacherous scheme and presented it to King Darius. They encouraged him to issue a decree "that

anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den" (v. 7). Agreeing, the king put the plan in writing, "in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed" (v. 8).

When Daniel learned of the decree, he undoubtedly realized he'd been targeted. As a man of prayer, the faithful Jew could have communed with God in private. Nobody would know and be able to accuse

him. Instead, "he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before" (v. 10).

As soon as the group caught Daniel praying and asking God for help, they went to the king, reminding him of his declaration. The king agreed that the decree was definitely in effect, and could not be altered.

These men had baited the trap well, and, as he heard their reply, Darius was ensnared by a web of his own creation: "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day" (v. 13).

Greatly distressed, the king tried for the rest of the day to figure out a way to rescue Daniel, but his foes would have none of it. They went to the king as a group, reminding him "that according to the law of the

Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed" (v. 15). As Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, the king called out, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" (v. 16).

Returning to his chambers, Darius spent a sleepless night. As dawn broke, he hurried to the lions' den, calling out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" (v. 20) Daniel immediately allayed the king's fears by saying God "sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions" (v. 21). Daniel declared God had rescued him because he was innocent in his sight of God and in his service to Darius (v. 22).

How can we remain faithful amidst opposition? We can pray, asking God for courage. We can involve ourselves in missions and ministry, even when it is difficult. We can let our faith be on display, standing firm in our beliefs (but always doing so in ways that are loving, and honoring to the Lord). Romans 8:37 reminds us "we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Now, that's a victory verse to claim!

Ann Maniscalco is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ocean Springs.

### Bible Studies for Life

with Ann Maniscalco



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## GUIDESTONE

cont. from p. 1

group Reaching Souls International in Oklahoma City, filed an appeal to the Supreme Court alongside the Little Sisters of the Poor, a Roman Catholic ministry in Baltimore.

GuideStone, local churches, and a very narrow class of other ministries are exempt from the mandate and its penalties, but hundreds of evangelical Christian ministries that rely on Guide-

Stone for their health benefits are not exempt and must comply with the government's system or pay enormous fines.

At issue is the Obamacare demand that all U.S. employers provide birth control, including abortifacients. Abortifacients are chemicals that destroy a developing, post-fertilization human and expel the child from its mother's womb. Examples include such drugs as Plan B, ella, and high doses of hormones.

Lawyers will present their arguments to the Supreme

Court in the first few months of 2016.

In the case, *GuideStone v. Burwell*, an Oklahoma federal judge granted a preliminary injunction in December 2013 against the government's enforcement of the mandate and penalties for ministries in GuideStone's health plans.

The government appealed that case in 2014 to the 10th Circuit. That appellate court ruled in July 2015 that the ministries must comply with the mandate or face the penalties, but agreed to let the preliminary injunction

stay in place until the appeal was decided by the Supreme Court.

In September, five judges on the full 10th Circuit, in a highly unusual move, sharply criticized the court decision that ruled against GuideStone and convened a vote of the entire 10th Circuit judges to reconsider the panel's 2-1 decision.

That vote fell one vote short, but displayed vividly the sharp divide among judges over the mandate.

"We are thankful that the Supreme Court has agreed to

hear these cases," GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins said. "We look forward to the opportunity to present our case and are praying that the justices will recognize and once again protect the religious liberty of ministry organizations to operate their benefit plans in accordance with their beliefs."

GuideStone General Counsel Harold R. Loftin Jr. stated, "We trust the court will provide a fair hearing of our arguments early in 2016 and look forward to the resolution of the case."

# What's most important at Thanksgiving?

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — For Americans, Thanksgiving is about faith and family — and not much else, a new LifeWay Research study shows.

Fifty-six percent of respondents tell LifeWay Research that the most important part of the annual holiday is "being thankful to God for my blessings." In addition, thirty-nine percent say "time with family and friends" tops their Thanksgiving priorities.

Times of prayer and thanking God for the harvest stretch back to the Protestant Reformation in Europe, and continued as Pilgrims and Puritans settled in America. While Abraham Lincoln tried to establish a settled day for the holiday, Thanksgiving was not set as the fourth Thursday of November until 1941.

Since then, the holiday has developed several other traditions like the extravagant meal, football games, and the start of Christmas shopping — but each of those activities registered only one percent among respondents as the most important aspect of Thanksgiving.

"In a nation that prides itself on personal independence, Thanksgiving priorities are a noticeable contradiction," said Scott McConnell, vice president LifeWay Research. "Rather than focusing on a feast or football, most Americans relish the holiday to acknowledge the hand of God in their success and many others cherish the time with loved ones."

**Scott McConnell**  
vice president  
LifeWay Research

Christians are more likely to value thanking God above the other parts of Thanksgiving than anyone else. Sixty-eight percent of Christian respondents point to thankfulness to God, but they aren't the only ones. Forty-six percent of adherents of other religions thank God, while 28 percent of the non-religious do.

Among Christians, Protestants (76%) are more likely than Catholics (56%) to choose thanking God over time with family and friends as the most important part. Self-identified evangelical Protestants are the religious group most likely to place the emphasis on being thankful for blessings, at 75%.

The more frequently someone attends church, the more likely they are to say thanking God is the most important part of Thanksgiving, according to the study. That's selected by 77% of those who attend about once a week, compared to 57% among those who attend once or twice a month.

Gender, geographic region, and age play a role in deciding the most important aspect of Thanksgiving, in addition to religion.

Women are twice as likely to select being thankful to God (64%) than

Among Americans:

## The most important part about Thanksgiving



 LifeWay

LifeWayResearch.com

### Methodology

The phone survey of Americans was conducted Sept. 14-28. The calling utilized random digit dialing. Fifty percent of completes were among landlines and 50% were among cell phones. Maximum quotas and slight weights were used for gender, region, age, ethnicity, and education to more accurately reflect the population. The completed sample is 1,000 surveys. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 3.6%. Margins of error are higher in subgroups.

spending time with family and friends (32%). Men, meanwhile, are evenly split. Forty-eight percent say thankfulness, while 45% say family and friends.

Southerners are the most likely to value thanking God (65%) and least likely to say spending time with family and friends (32%). Those in the Northeast (45%) and the West (44%) are most likely to choose spending time with family and friends as the most important.

This question also exposed a clear divide between millennials and other generations. The majority of young adults chose spending time with friends and family over thanking God. Older millennials (ages 25-34) select fellowship instead of faith 53% - 44%. Younger millennials (ages 18-24) are even more likely to say the time with others versus being thankful, by 57% - 39%.

"A generation starving for relationships sees Thanksgiving as a relational

respite," McConnell said. "To many millennials, reserving a whole day to thank God on Thanksgiving is as backward as mailing a thank you card instead of instant messaging 'thx' and a praying hands emoji, but following the busiest travel day of the year with an upward focused pause may be a tradition some warm up to with age."

The tendency of millennials to choose time with friends and family is not simply because the youngest adult generation is the least religious. Even among Christians, 44% of millennials chose spending time with friends and family as the most important part of Thanksgiving. Only a quarter of non-millennial Christians do the same.

LifeWay Research is an evangelical research division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Nashville.